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Paris, le

28 mars

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My dear Francis,

Thank you for your letter and for the copy of the letter to François Gros. The Spetsai affair is indeed a very unfortunate one. I think that people have been excited here mostly because of the part EMBO has played in joining NATO to organize it. What they understand from NATO, they do not like from EMBO in which they want to put their own moral values. I quite agree with you about people who are prepared to go to meetings in Spain, but not to Greece (although I disagree about the Vatican, which is a rather different matter in the XXth century). As I see it, the difficulty in all this, is that deciding to go here and not to there is essentially a matter of taste and personal standards of moral, therefore a matter of individuals not of organization.

Personally, I am rather against the support of EMBO to the Spetsai meeting, not only because of the political state but because : 1) this type of course does not seem to me a very interesting one for EMBO ; 2) if EMBO thinks this course should go on, it should turn over

... / ...

and having already been held once in Greece, it should go somewhere else.

Anyway, I promise to do my best to cool down the anti Spetsai movement which shakes the French biochemists.

With my very best regards,

Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "François".

François JACOB